

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

CONTACT: OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
(916) 657-7202
(916) 657-8639 - FAX



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CHP RESPONSE TO AMENDED ACLU LAWSUIT

Recently the ACLU has filed an amendment to their original lawsuit regarding alleged racial profiling against the California Highway Patrol (CHP). This amendment expands the suit to include additional individuals and organizations.

The following statement by California Highway Patrol Commissioner Dwight (Spike) Helmick, is in response to this action:

“Although the amended complaint has been filed, the plaintiffs are obligated to seek the court’s approval and certification. This has not yet occurred.

The CHP recently agreed to voluntarily begin tracking the race of drivers pulled over for traffic stops, and encouraged the collection of this data from law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The first available data will be submitted to the California Legislature by the CHP in mid 2000.

As I have said many times, the CHP has never condoned racial profiling, and our policy specifically prohibits this activity. It is the policy of the CHP to treat every citizen equally and we will continue to maintain this approach. If the data shows any variance from this standard, we will take immediate action to rectify it.”

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